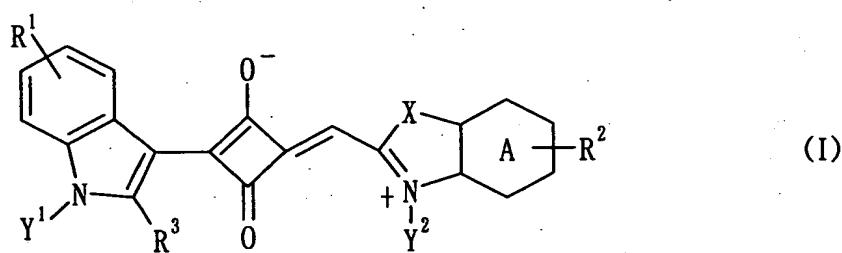


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cyanine compound of formula (I), an optical filter containing the cyanine compound, and an optical recording material containing the cyanine compound which is used to form an optical recording layer of an optical recording medium:

5



wherein ring A represents benzene or naphthalene; R¹ and R² each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, C1-C8 alkyl, C1-C8 alkoxy or C6-C30 aryl; R³ represents hydrogen, C1-C8 alkyl or C6-C30 aryl; X represents oxygen, sulfur, selenium, -CR⁴R⁵-, -NH- or -NY'-; Y¹ and Y² each represent hydrogen or C1-C30 organic group; R⁴ and R⁵ each represent C1-C4 alkyl or benzyl, or R⁴ and R⁵ are taken together to form C3-C6 cycloalkane-1,1-diyl; and Y' represents C1-C30 organic group.